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**Claims**

1. Monoclonal antibody directed against an epitope within the 30 most N-terminal amino acids of human PIIINP.
2. Monoclonal antibody as described in 1. characterized by preferential binding to trimeric PIIINP.
3. Monoclonal antibody raised against an oligopeptide with the sequence **N-Gly-Ser-Pro-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gly-Ile-Cys-Glu-Ser-Cys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Pro-Gln-Asn-Tyr-Ser-Pro-C** or a subsequence from the Col2 domain of PIIINP.
4. Use of an antibody as described in 1. and 2. as a capture antibody and an antibody as described in 3. as a detector antibody in a sandwich immuno assay that detects intact PIIINP.
5. Immunoassay with an antibody as described in 1. and 2. alone or in combination with other antibodies directed against PIIINP that specifically detects trimeric PIIINP.